GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3995
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2000
DEFENCE MINISTER S VISIT TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES
AVTAR SINGH BHADANA

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he visited a number of countries during the month of May and June, 2000 to discuss the defence ties with these countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether any defence agreements with these countries have been reached and signed with particular reference to Russia and U.K.;

(c) if so, the details of each of the agreements so reached and the extent to which these agreements are likely to help India to build-up the defence forces and also the arms and ammunitions to be obtained from these countries;

(d) the extent to which the Indian defence system is likely to be strengthened by those agreements; and

(e) the time by which they are likely to be implemented?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (e): I visited the United Kingdom from June 13-17,2000 and the Russian Federation from June26- 30, 2000. During these visits, interalia matters relating to bilateral defence cooperation, regional and international security issues, international terrorism and religious extremism, were discussed.

No defence agreements were signed during these visits. However, at the end of my visit to Russia, a Protocol on the results of the visit, was signed by both sides. It will not be in the interest of national security to disclose details of the discussions held with these two countries.

These visits have further strengthened the existing bilateral relations, specifically in the field of defence, with the United Kingdom and the Russian Federation.